



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SR-6J

VIA ELECTRONIC AND CERTIFIED MAIL

March 14, 2008

Jennifer Hale  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Environment Health & Safety, WTC 2G2  
P.O. Box 9777  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9777



RE: Plainwell Mill, Operable Unit #7, Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Site Meeting Request

Dear Ms. Hale:

I am writing to request that representatives of Weyerhaeuser Company (Weyerhaeuser) attend a meeting with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss certain issues that have come up recently in connection with emergency response work being conducted pursuant to the terms of the Weyerhaeuser Consent Decree, Civil Action No. 1:05 CV0003 (CD).

As you know, last summer Weyerhaeuser became concerned that certain response actions taking place downstream from the Plainwell mill as part of the Plainwell impoundment time-critical removal action threatened the release of waste material from the Plainwell Mill riverbanks. Weyerhaeuser proposed to excavate waste materials from the floodplain and riverbank areas of the Kalamazoo River adjacent to the Plainwell Mill under the terms of Paragraph 67 of the CD. EPA authorized the work to proceed, but advised Weyerhaeuser that the design and implementation of the work would be subject to EPA approval.

Recently EPA has become concerned about the performance of some aspects of the emergency work. Most importantly, EPA is concerned about: (a) an erroneous statement made in *Progress Report 16*; (b) a failure to follow the work plan; (c) deviation from the standard operating procedure for sediment sampling without notifying EPA; and (d) failure to immediately notify EPA of a potential release (an oily sheen) to the Kalamazoo River that occurred during performance of the emergency work. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has identified similar concerns about the emergency response work to EPA.

These issues call into question the quality of the work being conducted by Weyerhaeuser, and pose a serious threat to continued good working relationships among EPA, MDEQ and the company. In order to alleviate EPA's concerns, I urge you

to accept this request to meet in person and discuss possible ways to resolve the issues I have raised.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to call me at 312.886.1434, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC' with a stylized flourish.

**Sam Chummar**  
**Remedial Project Manager**

cc: Eileen Furey, C-14J  
James Saric, SR-6J  
Michael Berkoff, SR-6J  
Paul Bucholtz, MDEQ

U.S. Postal Service

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Sam Chummar (512-65)

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Jennifer Hale

Street, Apt. No.  
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Weyerhaeuser Company

City, State, ZIP

Environment Health & Safety, WTC 2G2

P.O. Box 9777

Federal Way, WA 98063-9777

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Jennifer Hale  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Environment Health & Safety, WTC 2G2  
P.O. Box 9777  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9777

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